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Letter dated 9 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 69 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 9 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

On 9 August 2016, Ukraine, along with the international community, marks the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Reaffirming its commitment to the principles of respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, as expressed, in particular, in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Ukraine guarantees the preservation and promotion of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of all national minorities of the country.

Ukraine guarantees the protection and enjoyment of the inherent right to self-determination of the Crimean Tatar people within the sovereign and independent Ukrainian State and recognizes Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, the executive body of the Kurultai of the Crimean Tatar people, as the competent authority of the Crimean Tatars.

Ukraine once again draws the world's attention to the facts regarding systemic pressure on the Crimean Tatars, of reprisals against the Ukrainian citizens on the ground of nationality and of the organization of ethnically and politically motivated persecutions in the temporarily occupied part of the territory of Ukraine by the State authorities of the Russian Federation, which started from the date of the temporary occupation of Crimea and which embody a conscious policy of the ethnocide of the Crimean Tatars.

We call on the international community to condemn the actions of the occupying authorities, to make necessary efforts to protect the Crimean Tatars from discrimination and harassment by the Russian Federation and to prevent the occurrence of the genocide of the Crimean Tatar people, who have already experienced the tragedy of forced deportation 70 years ago.

We are convinced that all those responsible for the occupation and the illegal attempt to annex Crimea, as well as for systematic and widespread violations of human rights in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine, will be brought to justice.

Ukraine will not cease to exert its utmost efforts for the complete de-occupation of the territory of Crimea and for the restoration of sovereignty and territorial integrity, and calls on the partners to reinforce their pressure on the invading country.